

RVPOA VIEWSLETTER – APRIL 2020

ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING AND PICNIC

This year's annual Rainbow Valley POA meeting and picnic will be held Saturday, August 8th at the Pavilion in Memorial Park located at 200 N. Park Street in Woodland Park. Members are encouraged to sign in and enjoy coffee and pastries at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will begin at 10:30, with lunch served immediately after. New Board members will be elected, and the 2020-2021 budget will be approved. **If this meeting has to be postponed or canceled because of COVID-19, notice will be posted on the rvpoa.com website and will be emailed to all members with current email addresses on file.**

DUMPSTERS - MEMORIAL WEEKEND

Dumpsters will be available to RVPOA owners who are current with dues for the disposal of slash from



Wednesday, May 20th, thru Monday, June 1st. Dumpsters will be located on both sides of Hwy. 67 (the cul-de-sac by 52 Barite Lane and just north of 2118

Pikes Peak Drive at the corner of Blue Spruce and Pikes Peak). Please fill the back of containers first, stacking as compactly as possible, cleaning up slash that has fallen on the ground.

MEMBER SURVEY RESULTS

Thank you to the 92 members who completed and returned the 2019 Survey. After tallying this amazing response, members clearly place fire mitigation as their highest priority in spending annual dues. Not far behind is providing dumpsters twice a year for both slash/pine needles and for household items. The top three social events were document shredding or electronic recycling, monthly or quarterly coffee or dining gatherings, and outdoor/hiking/birding clubs. Once social distancing is behind us, dates for upcoming member events will be posted on our website.

TRASH CONTAINERS

Although our covenants state that trash containers are allowed beside the road only on designated trash days, we understand that some mem-



bers have steep driveways or underlying health issues. If you qualify, please submit to the Board your plans for disguising and securing your trash receptacle and your request will be considered by the Architectural Committee.

THE BEARS ARE ACTIVE

Black bears have become common visitors in Rainbow Valley following hibernation. With their strong



sense of smell and memory, they tend to make frequent visits to homes with bird feeders and unlocked trash containers. To deter bears, store garbage indoors or in locked bear-resistant containers, keep pet food inside, clean barbecue grills, and bring in birdfeeders at night or consider not feed-

ing birds from April to December when naturally provided food is available.

COVID-19/EMERGENCY CONTACT NEEDED

During this time of social distancing, the Board is holding its monthly meetings via teleconferencing. The Teller County Sheriff's office has requested that we have contacts for all lot owners in the event of an emergency. With 420 members, that is quite a task, so we urge you to provide your email address and cell phone number which will be used exclusively for Association communication without disclosing your private information. Please send this along with your Rainbow Valley address to Board@rvpoa.com. We also urge you to register on our new website rvpoa.com where we post important updates and events and are able to email you in an emergency.

MAILBOX RESTRUCTURING AND REPAIR

Postmaster Freed and the Board would like to thank members for their patience and co-operation during the recent restructuring of mailboxes. Although it was a huge undertaking, it has made our mail carrier, Vinnie's, life much simpler. Also, we would like to thank the postal maintenance team for its swift repair of our mailboxes during the recent break-in.



OPEN FIRES STRICTLY PROHIBITED

The Board has been receiving reports of open fires on properties. As evidenced by recent wildfires, it only takes minutes for a small fire to engulf a forested area. As posted on the bulletin board and stated in our governing documents, open fires outside the home are strictly prohibited in our subdivision. That includes all wood-burning fire pits. In addition to fines imposed by the Association, Teller County also has strict regulations during its burn bans. Monitoring barbecue grills is important, and fireworks are completely banned. Last year's seven-acre wildfire off Rampart Range Road started with a campfire that was left warm, the wind igniting pine needles adjacent to the fire ring.



Fire Pits Not Allowed in Rainbow Valley



DIVIDE SLASH SITE CLOSED



Due to the success of the Divide Slash Site, accumulated chip and slash piles must be removed before accepting any additional material. Thus the Divide Slash Site will not open for 2020 as usual, but may be open intermittently later in the year. For updates, consult the CUSP website <https://divideslashsite.com> or call the CUSP office at (719)748-0033. CUSP also operates sites in Fairplay and Bailey. Dumping at the Divide slash site while it is closed is illegal, strictly prohibited, and may result in the site being closed permanently. Mobile chipping is available at <https://cusp.ws/forest-issues-2/chipper/>.

WE HAVE A NEW WEBPAGE!

Be sure to take a look at our new webpage! It is still located at **rvpoa.com**, but it is full of new information. The tabs at the top of the page include one for IMPORTANT INFORMATION, which highlights fire issues, Covid-19 and other current information rele-

vant to members. You will also find the MEMBERS ONLY tab which is available exclusively to members. To access these private pages, please send your email address to Board@rvpoa.com and an invitation asking you to create an account will be emailed to you. Our governing documents, meeting minutes and Board information are listed on these pages. You can even ORDER WATER directly from that tab! If you send us pictures of our beautiful area, we will post them on the website. Have fun!

DO NOT FEED WILDLIFE

We know people mean well when they give tidbits to wildlife. What they may not realize is that feeding wildlife is bad for the animals and dangerous for people. It is also against the law. According to Colorado Parks and Wildlife, there are several reasons why Colorado passed a law in 1992 making it illegal to feed big game animals. One important reason is that deer are the primary prey of mountain lions. Concentrating deer by feeding is not only harmful to them, but may attract mountain lions. Although mountain lion sightings are infrequent, they are posted on our website, and the State requests that they be reported to them at 719.227.5200.



We encourage you to watch a video or view a downloadable brochure on "Living with Lions" at <http://cpw.state.co.us/learn/Pages/LivingwithWildlifeLion1.aspx>

Black bears, too, are attracted to food left out for fox, deer and chipmunks. Over time, they become less wary of people and more likely to attack pets and people. When that happens, they often must be destroyed to ensure public safety.

POLICIES, RULES & REGULATIONS

As required by Article VII of our Bylaws, the Association's recently adopted Policies, Rules & Regulations are posted on our website www.rvpoa.com. They serve to complement and detail the governing Amended Covenants, allowing for easier management of natural changes in the community.

THANK YOU

We would like to recognize and thank Dale McKenzie for cleaning up trash on Hwy 67 around Rainbow Valley. Ray Allard and Brian Etherton, thank you for plowing the snow in front of the mailboxes. And we appreciate that many of you pick up trash and watch out for suspicious activity as you walk or drive throughout the neighborhood. It takes a village!

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

We would like to welcome all new lot owners who have invested in our beautiful community and look forward to meeting you soon. This past year was extremely busy, but together we accomplished much. We appreciate your patience, support and involvement in maintaining the beauty and peaceful nature of this community. The Board is fully committed to represent the best interests of Rainbow Valley and our members and will achieve that goal by working together.

Rick Ritchie – President
Linda Yates -- Secretary
Robin Zeal – Treasurer
Cori Freed & Gordon Heiniger



Website: www.rvpoa.com
Email: Board@rvpoa.com

STAY CONNECTED DURING EMERGENCIES:

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www.co.teller.co.us
www.nixle.com

EXCELLENT WILDFIRE RESOURCES:

www.firewise.org
www.wildlandfirersg.org

PREPARING HOMES FOR WILDFIRE

Research around home destruction vs. home survival in wildfires point to embers and small flames as the main way that the majority of homes ignite in wildfires. Embers are burning pieces of airborne wood and/or vegetation that can be carried more than a mile through the wind and can cause spot fires and ignite homes, debris, etc. Following are methods for homeowners to prepare their homes to withstand ember attacks and minimize the likelihood of flames or surface fire touching the home or structures. Experiments, models and post-fire studies have shown homes ignite due to the condition of the home and everything around it up to 200' from the foundation. This is called the Home Ignition Zone.

HOME IGNITION ZONE (1st Priority)

Simple Steps from Roof to Foundation to Make a Home Safer from Embers and Radiant Heat:

- ☐ Clean roofs and gutters of dead leaves, debris and pine needles that could catch embers
- ☐ Replace or repair any loose or missing shingles/roof tiles to prevent ember penetration
- ☐ Reduce embers that could pass thru vents in eaves by installing 1/8" metal mesh screening
- ☐ Clean debris from exterior attic vents and install 1/8" metal mesh screening
- ☐ Repair or replace damaged or loose window screens and broken windows
- ☐ Screen or box in areas below patios and decks with wire mesh to prevent debris and combustible materials from accumulating
- ☐ Move flammable material away from wall exteriors (mulch, flammable plants, leaves and needles, firewood piles, anything that burns)
- ☐ Remove anything stored underneath decks or porches

INTERMEDIATE ZONE (2nd Priority)

Five to 30 feet from furthest exterior point of home:

- ☐ Clear vegetation from under large stationary propane tanks
- ☐ Create fuel breaks with driveways, walkways/paths, patios and decks
- ☐ Keep native grasses mowed to height of 4"
- ☐ Remove ladder fuels (vegetation under trees) so a surface fire can't reach tree crowns. Prune trees up to 6 to 10' from ground; for shorter trees, don't exceed 1/3 of overall height
- ☐ Space trees to have minimum of 18' between crowns with distance increasing with slope %
- ☐ Tree placement should be planned to ensure mature canopy is no closer than 10' to edge of structure
- ☐ Tree and shrubs in this zone should be limited to small clusters of a few each

EXTENDED ZONE (3rd Priority)

Thirty-100 feet out to 200 feet:

- ☐ Dispose of heavy ground litter/debris
- ☐ Remove dead plant and tree material
- ☐ Remove small conifers between mature trees
- ☐ Remove vegetation adjacent to outbuildings
- ☐ Trees 30-60' from home should have approximately 12' between canopy tops
- ☐ Trees 60-100' from home should have approximately 6' between canopy tops